Downsizing of Indian Army

2051. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to downsize the Indian Army;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether there is a resentment on the issue within the forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) There is no plan to downsize the army. The strength of the army is dictated by security environment and threat perceptions. Force re-structuring or right-sizing within the authorized strength of the Army is a continuous and dynamic process to remain ready and relevant in context of emerging challenges, technologies and the environment. There is no resentment within the Army on this issue.

IGMDP of DRDO

2052. SHRI S.K. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) on how many projects of the Integrated Missile Guided System, the Defence Research and Development Organisation is working at present, item and year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that Indian Army has reservations to use these indigenous missiles; and

(c) if not, when these indigenous missiles will be delivered to Indian Army for use?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) At present only one project *i.e.* NAG, third Generation Anti Tank Missile is under development as part of Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme. The probable date of completion is December 2008. User Trials of NAG third generation anti-tank missile is scheduled during 2nd half of 2008.

Defence services no longer a preferred career option

2053. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foundation of Organizational Research in a survey among the 4,600 graduates and post-graduates has reportedly found that the defence services were no longer a preferred career option;

(b) whether at present there is a reported shortage of 11,200 officers in Indian Army, 1,565 officers in Indian Air Force and 1,461 officers in Indian Navy;

(c) whether Indian Military Academy has only 86 to be honed into officers as against normal training of 250 gentlemen cadets; and

(d) if so, what remedial steps Defence Ministry has so far taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Presently there is a shortage of 11,153, 1,403 and 1,368 officers in Army, Navy and Air Force respectively. However, no survey has been conducted by the Government of India.

There have been shortfalls in the intake of cadets in Indian Military Academy (IMA) (DE) at Dehradun. The shortfall in recruitment of officers in the services can be partly attributed to the change in the socio-economic environment, the change in career preferences and availability of employment opportunities in other sectors.

Several steps have been taken by the three Services to attract more talented youth to join the Defence Forces. All officers including those in Short Service Commission (SSC) have been made eligible to hold substantive rank of Captain, Major and Lieutenant Colonel after 2, 6 and 13 years of reckonable service respectively. In addition to the above, 750 posts of Lieutenant Colonels have been upgraded to Colonel's rank. The tenure of SSC officers has also been extended from 10 years to 14 years.

The Armed Forces have undertaken sustained image projection and publicity campaign to create awareness among the youth on the advantages of taking up a challenging and satisfying career. Candidate-friendly recruitment procedures to attract more number of candidates and a focused publicity drive in various institutions to attract potential candidates have been undertaken. Awareness campaigns, participation in career fairs and exhibitions, advertisements in print and electronic media, counseling and motivational talks in schools, colleges and NCC camps are also some of the other measures in this direction. In addition, the commitment and bravery of the Armed Forces is consistently projected through the electronic and print media.

The Government has also appointed VI Central Pay Commission to go into the question of revision of pay and allowances etc. of all the Government servants including the Armed Forces. The three-Services have presented a joint memorandum to the Pay Commission suggesting revision of pay and allowances and other service conditions. The matter has also been discussed with the Pay Commission by the three Service Chiefs and officers in the Ministry of Defence.

Fighter plane crashes

†2054. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of incidents of air crashes of fighter planes of Indian Air Force during last three years as on date, date-wise;

(b) the number of persons killed and injured in these air crashes, accident-wise and the financial loss suffered by Government due to such air crashes;

(c) the amount of compensation paid, accident-wise;

(d) whether investigation of each accident has been made; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, accident-wise?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The details of incidents of air crashes of fighter aircraft in the Indian Air Force (IAF), along with the number of persons killed/injured and the amount of compensation paid/financial loss suffered by the IAF during last three years and the current financial year (*i.e.* upto 11th March, 2008), date-wise is enclosed as Statement (*See* below).

(d) and (e) Each air crash in the IAF is investigated by a Court of Inquiry. As per the Court of Inquiries, the main reasons for aircraft accidents are Human Error and Technical

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi